

199—35.7(476) Exemptions from participation.

35.7(1) The utility shall allow customers to request exemption from participating in the utility's electric energy efficiency plan if the combined ratepayer impact test for the utility's approved five-year electric energy efficiency and demand response plan is less than 1.0. The utility shall file a draft customer notice within 20 days following the board's approval of the utility's five-year energy efficiency plan. The form of the notice, once approved by the board, may not be altered except to include the rate and bill impact dollars and percentages. The type size and quality shall be easily legible. The notice shall, at a minimum, provide the following elements:

a. A brief statement informing all customers that they are eligible to request an exemption from participation in the utility's electric energy efficiency plan.

b. The estimated annual rate and bill impacts of the approved electric energy efficiency plan on each class of customers and an estimate of the annual jurisdictional rate impact for each major customer grouping in dollars and as a percentage, with the proposed actual increases to be filed at the time of notice to customers. The utility may represent the estimated annual rate and bill impact dollars and percentages with blank spaces; however, the board may require the utility to submit additional information necessary for review of the proposed form of notice. A copy of the notice with the final annual rate and bill impact dollars and percentages shall be filed with the board at the time of customer notification.

c. A statement that customers requesting to be exempt from participation in the electric energy efficiency plan will not be eligible to participate in any utility-sponsored electric energy efficiency programs and will not be eligible to receive rebates from the utility for electric energy efficiency programs during the five-year plan cycle, beginning January 1 of the first year of the five-year plan cycle.

d. An explanation that customers requesting to be exempt from participation in the electric energy efficiency plan will no longer be assessed the energy efficiency cost recovery factor for the electric energy efficiency programs on their utility bills.

e. An explanation that customers requesting to be exempt from participation in the electric energy efficiency plan will be eligible to participate in demand response and natural gas energy efficiency programs and will be assessed costs related to those programs on their utility bills.

f. A statement that the exemption from participation in the electric energy efficiency plan is applicable for the five-year plan cycle. The ability to request an exemption from participation in future electric energy efficiency plans will depend on the specifics of the utility's energy efficiency plan and demand response plan filing as approved by the board.

g. The utility's telephone number, website address, and email address the customer should use to request an exemption from participation in the electric energy efficiency plan.

h. A deadline by which customers must request an exemption. The deadline shall not be less than 30 days from the date of the notice.

35.7(2) The utility shall deliver the approved notice to all affected customers within 30 days of the board approving the notice.

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